



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 9, 2022**

**Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD  
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**House Bill 5303, An Act Concerning Continuing Medical Education Requirements Concerning Endometriosis And Cultural Competency And The Creation Of A Plan For An Endometriosis Data And Biorepository Program**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide the following information regarding House Bill 5303, which would require DPH, in consultation with the University of Connecticut Health Center and a research laboratory, to establish a plan to develop an endometriosis data and biorepository program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

The department appreciates the intention of this bill, which centers around increasing access to endometriosis diagnosis and treatment. Endometriosis is an incredibly painful disease, with a prolonged and invasive diagnostic process. DPH supports efforts that can make diagnosis easier and less painful, while also improving treatment options.

The bill would require DPH to establish an endometriosis data and biorepository program in consultation with the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) and a research laboratory, with the goals of improving early detection of endometriosis, developing new therapeutics for treatment and management of endometriosis, and promoting early access to treatments. It is our understanding that the intention is not to have the biorepository housed at the DPH Public Health Laboratory, as the department is not equipped to collect, maintain, and house live tissue.

We respectfully request that the committee consider substitute language to assign planning and reporting responsibilities for the data and biorepository program to the University of Connecticut Health Center and a partner research laboratory. DPH is not a research or academic institution and would not be an appropriate entity to assist in the development of disease treatments. This work would fall outside of the usual scope of activities and existing expertise of the department, and DPH cannot carry out the requirements outlined in this bill within available appropriations.

DPH is excited that the UCHC and their partner laboratory have taken on this challenge and look forward to the outcomes of their work to promote and increase access to diagnosis protocols or treatments. Ensuring access to easy endometriosis diagnosis and treatment is of vital importance for women's health and addresses inequities that exist in our healthcare system. While the department is not experienced in this area, we look forward to any opportunity to stay informed on this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and the department is open to working with committee members on this topic.

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